

Torrance, California
November 23, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 23, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll; those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 9, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from William R. Staats Company, addressed to the Torrance Municipal Water District, offering for sale, two \$1000.00 bonds of the Torrance Municipal Improvement District, due July 1, 1955, to yield 2.5%, at a price of \$115.00, making the cost \$2300.00, plus accrued interest of \$33.33, or a total of \$2333.33.

Clerk Bartlett stated that it was the recommendation of Mr. W. H. Stanger, Superintendent of the Water Department, that these two bonds be purchased as it will save the City \$550.00 over the period of eleven years.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City purchase the two \$1000.00 bonds of the Torrance Municipal Water District from the William R. Staats Company, at the price quoted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:
AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the South Bay Humane Society, Inc. advising that at a recent meeting of the Society it was decided to turn over to Mrs. Bernice G. Davison all contracts, equipment, etc. with the understanding that she would fulfill said contracts and continue to operate the kennels.

Mr. Cyril V. Bennett, President of the Society advised that this action was necessary due to the fact that no one else had the time to devote to the work; and since Mrs. Davison has been almost solely responsible for the work for the past few years, he felt she

was fully capable of carrying on the work in an efficient manner.

The South Bay Humane Society, Inc. further advised that it was releasing all contracts, equipment, including trucks, kennels, etc., as well as all monies collected for dog licenses, to Mrs. Davison in order that she might fulfill the contract with the City of Torrance.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Clerk be instructed to write Mrs. Davison, confirming the change in the contract made with the South Bay Humane Society, Inc. and authorizing her to continue to carry out the terms of said contract for the fiscal year 1943-44. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, enclosing a communication from the Railroad Commission of the State of California advising that a conference has been arranged, to be held in the Commission's office, 708 State Building, Los Angeles, on Friday, November 26, at 10:00 A.M. to discuss plans for transportation between the cities of Compton and Torrance, in accordance with application filed by Mr. Frank Atkinson. Mr. Ward suggested that the Council authorize the City Attorney and himself to attend this hearing in the interests of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Acting City Attorney, Mr. Otto B. Willett, and Mr. Ward be authorized to attend the conference in the office of the Railroad Commission, on Friday, November 26, in connection with the application of Frank Atkinson to establish a bus line from Compton to Torrance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that he had received a communication from the California National Builders, in reference to various tax deeded lots in the City of Torrance, on which they hold options to purchase, and are now requesting a refund of deposits made due to the fact that the City has been unable to clear the titles.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be turned over to the Assessment Engineers, representing the City of Torrance, for their recommendation either approving or disapproving the request of the California National Builders that they be permitted to surrender their options and receive a refund of deposits made thereon. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1617

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1617 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At the request of Councilman Cucci, Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 349

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 119 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 349 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci stated that at the last meeting of the Council he had been appointed on a "Bill of Rights" Committee, and reported that it would apparently be very difficult to obtain any speakers or arrange any program, as everyone was so very busy, and suggested that a resolution be adopted proclaiming the week of December 12 to 18, inclusive, as "Bill of Rights Week" and requesting all civic organizations, including the P.T.A., to give the Bill of Rights as much publicity as possible during that week.

Whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the week of December 12 to 18, inclusive, 1943, be proclaimed as "Bill of Rights Week"; that Resolution No. 1618 be adopted, and a copy of said Resolution be published in the Torrance Herald. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci inquired if the Council was prepared to take action on the resolution which he had submitted at the last meeting of the Council, establishing a system for annual inventories of the City's equipment.

Councilman Hitchcock requested that he be allowed a little more time to consider this matter.

Councilman Cucci replied that he thought this matter should not be neglected, but agreed to wait another two weeks.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$850.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of road oil to be used on the shoulders of 190th Street. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: none. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$820.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of crushed rock to be used on the shoulders of 190th Street. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the expenditure of \$500.00 be authorized for the purchase of materials for the resurfacing of shoulders on Crenshaw Blvd., south of 190th Street. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain recommended that the Council authorize the City Attorney to start the necessary action to recover the cost of repairing the damage done to Crenshaw Blvd., between 190th Street and the east gate of the General Petroleum Refinery, caused by contractors hauling excessively heavy loads in the construction work at the General Petroleum Refinery.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Attorney be authorized to start proceedings against the parties responsible for damage to paving on Crenshaw Blvd., between 190th Street and the east entrance to the General Petroleum Refinery. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$53.28, plus tax, be made for the purchase of one Fordson Magneto, including

gears and adapters. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Charles S. Phipps be employed as a laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective November 9, 1943, as a War Emergency employee. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Lambert Anderson be employed as a laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective November 16, 1943, as a War Emergency employee. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Joel Hagberg be employed as a laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective November 22, 1943, as a War Emergency employee. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Bus Driver Howard B. Cruelle be authorized to take his vacation from December 1 to December 14, inclusive, 1943, subject to the approval of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Bus Manager C. Z. Ward be authorized to operate a bus for the benefit of the school children in the vicinity of Normandie Avenue and East Road on each school day of the week; this bus to be operated under the contract with the Aluminum Company of America; the children to pay five cents per ride, each way; and explaining that this service would not require any additional drivers.

Councilman Cucci requested Bus Manager Ward to explain this proposed service more fully.

Mr. Ward explained that at the present time the Aluminum Company has a bus chartered for their own particular service, and it is their desire that bus service be provided for the school children living in the vicinity of Normandie Avenue and East Road (mostly children of employees of the Aluminum Company) as the School Board will not provide such service. There will be no additional cost in connection with this service, excepting for the additional mileage, and to offset this, there will be a charge of five cents per ride, and there will be at least 25 or 30 children to be carried. Councilman Hitchcock seconded Councilman Babcock's motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that the expenditure of \$112.50, plus tax, be made for the purchase of one motor block flushing machine from the Turco Products Company, the cost of which is to be divided between the Bus Department and the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that a portion of the City Attorney's expenses, in connection with his trip to Chicago to attend the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers Conference, be paid by the City. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain advised that it was very difficult to obtain a painter to apply the beaded type of traffic striping, and had therefore taken the liberty of contacting the County of Los Angeles, who maintain a regular crew of traffic painters, and they have agreed to do what little beaded type of striping we have; and suggested that the Council consider engaging the County to do all the traffic striping next year. Mr. Jain said he had figured on doing more beaded striping this year but could not get a contractor to do the work, and that it will be about three weeks before the County can do this work.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to employ the County of Los Angeles to do the necessary beaded type of traffic striping. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain further suggested the advisability of arranging with the County to maintain the traffic Striping, explaining that the County has a regular maintenance crew that watches the condition of the striping and paints them as they are needed. He said the County only charges \$10.00 per mile, which is less than private contractors are charging.

He further stated that other cities in the harbor area have had the County do their traffic striping for years and as a result they get this service continuously.

Councilman Hitchcock requested the City Engineer to prepare a map showing the highways on which the traffic striping is needed.

Engineer Jain advised that California National Builders had returned two building permits covering lots on which they do not intend to build due to the fact they are unable to get a clear title from the City, and have requested that these permits be cancelled and the fees transferred to two other lots. Mr. Jain stated that as these permits are now about five months old he has no authority to refund their money or make the transfer as requested.

After some discussion, Mayor McGuire suggested that this matter be held up for further consideration and report at the next meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Charles Elman of Los Angeles addressed the Council and presented a letter addressed to the Torrance Herald, which he requested Clerk Bartlett to read.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:50 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance


City Clerk of the City of Torrance